

TREASURY



NEWS

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REMARKS OF TREASURY SECRETARY ROBERT E. RUBIN
INTRODUCTION OF CURRENCY BEARING RUBIN SIGNATURE

I don't want to make a long speech. What I'd like to do is take the tour with you, the young students who are with us today from Harrison Elementary School. I run Treasury and I've never had the chance to see how we print the money here or down in Fort Worth. I understand that Ms. Alexander, the counselor at Harrison, and your teachers have been going over some of the details about producing our currency.

Before going on, let me say that I think what the Bureau police are doing in the way of volunteering with Harrison, and raising money to purchase educational materials such as computer software, is an excellent way to help make a difference in our communities. It's enormously important that we involve ourselves in projects such as the adopt-a-school program because over the long term, programs of this sort can be critical to providing the quality public education that is essential to preparing our young men and women so that America can maintain its leadership in the world economy. So let me say thank you for the contribution you are making by helping in our communities.

Having your name on the currency is quite an honor. It symbolized a continuity of responsibility with respect to American economic matters that goes back to the beginning of the nation. I am the 70th Secretary of the Treasury. It is my responsibility, and that of all of the members of the economic team in our administration, to do everything we can to make certain that our country retains its economic leadership and pre-eminence in the years to come.

One key way we can do that is by making sure that young men and women such as our guests today have the best education available.

If you look at economies around the world that have come a great distance in the past 10 or 20 years, it's clear that you find the most progress where you find the most attention being paid to education.

RR-277

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I just came back from a meeting of finance ministers in Asia and I was looking around the table and I saw so many countries represented that once received aid from the United States but have had strong education programs and now are not just important trading partners, they're our competition. And education was key in the transformation.

The point here is first, that education will bring you a better job, greater satisfaction and a higher standard of living and, second, that we all must keep learning and expanding our knowledge and skills if this country is going to have the productivity and competitiveness required for success in the global economy .

So, the Clinton Administration is committed to supporting the kinds of programs that improve education and training levels in the United States so that we can stay not just competitive but also a leader in the world economy.

With that, let me conclude with thanks to the very talented staff here at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and with a word for our guests: Mrs. Withrow, the Treasurer, and I have signed some bills so our guests from the Harrison school can have a souvenir of today's visit. I'm always trying to encourage Americans to save, and I hope our guests are saving, but I would suggest that you not deposit these dollars in your savings accounts because they're special souvenirs.

I want to ask the officers who have been working with the students from Harrison and the students to join me at the table while I sign a few more bills to make this official.